

position until deciding to move on to private consulting for such clients as Cancer Cured Kids, John Bryant for Senate, Coalition for Peoples Choice and last but not least a Campaign Consultant for "McCarthy for Congress."

Mary Ellen came to work for me and the US House of Representatives as my District Director and Political Advisor in January 1997. I came to depend on Mary Ellen's breadth of knowledge to brief me and my Washington Staff on issues that directly affect my district. Her reputation has surpassed the confines of the Long Island office. My staff and I enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Mary Ellen, who is a pleasure and a delight to work with.

You only have to meet Mary Ellen once to realize that she is smart, funny and above all else, genuine. She is a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She is the best kind of friend. She laughs at your jokes, sings and dances spontaneously, listens to your tales of glee or woe with the same intensity. She helps you feel strong when you feel weak and found when you feel lost. She is the friend everyone should have. We are blessed.

Madam Speaker it is with great admiration, pride and respect that I acknowledge and thank Mary Ellen for her work in public service and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on March 16, 2009 due to the delay of my flight from Missouri.

On Monday, March 16, 2009 I missed Roll-call votes 125, 126, and 127. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 125, 126, and 127.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Encinitas, CA

Address of Requesting Entity: 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas, CA 92034

Description of Request: I secured \$285,000 in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill for the Encinitas Boulevard/Interstate 5 Interchange Project Study Report, Project Report, and Environmental Review. The City of Encinitas is contracting with an engineering consultant to prepare a Project Study Report, Project Report and Environmental Document for the Encinitas Blvd/I-5 Interchange. The

consulting firm (Dokken Engineering) is working with CALTRANS and the City of Encinitas staff to study and develop viable alternatives for four Interstate 5 interchanges, including the Encinitas Boulevard interchange. Unless the City can fund this study, Caltrans will move ahead with an environmental review and design on their "minimum build" alternative for this interchange, which assumes no under crossing widening and some roadway improvements, while maintaining the existing diamond interchange configuration. Encinitas Boulevard must be widened as part of the North Coast Interstate 5 Corridor (widening) Project or the City will suffer significant traffic congestion at this location by 2030 and probably much sooner. If the City is to have any hope of later integrating its alternative, we need to keep pace with the Interstate 5 widening project.

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of San Diego, CA

Address of Requesting Entity: 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Description of Request: I secured \$475,000 to fund relocation of fiber optic cable that is obstructing a major interstate highway interchange improvement project to connect I-5 with S.R. 56 in San Diego. The I-5 corridor is the primary link between Southern California—San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County—and Mexico. The route experiences extensive traffic congestion, with average daily counts at the interchange site of 261,000 vehicles, including 10,000 trucks, projected to reach 430,000 daily vehicles within 20 years. The project is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Department of Transportation Interstate Maintenance account, which includes funding for the addition of new interchanges. Local and State matching funds will provide at least 20% cost share.

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE NETWORK JOURNAL'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL 2009 TWENTY-FIVE INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS HONOREES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month and The Network Journal's Eleventh Annual 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees. Since 1998, The Network Journal has recognized the outstanding performance of 25 African-American women in the public, private, entrepreneurial and non-profit sectors throughout this nation and their impact to the world economy.

The Network Journal is a monthly business magazine with more than 88,000 readers. The publication is distributed nationwide with a focus on the Tri-state area (NY/NJ/CT) and features business articles of interest such as

finance, technology, industry focus and ideas for Black professionals and small business owners. Aziz Gueye Adetimirin, Publisher of The Network Journal Magazine stated, "The women we are honoring this year are in the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines." Founded in 1993, The Network Journal (TNJ) knows that Black professionals, more than most, recognize the importance of owning their own enterprises, but more importantly, TNJ knows that there is a difference between direct ownership and someone else defining your future. TNJ is also aware that Black professionals and entrepreneurs can chart their own course and own their success.

I am pleased to recognize TNJ's 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees:

Marcella Maxwell Ed.D., former Director of Development and Government Affairs Concord Family Services, Brooklyn, NY; Vernā Myers Esq. Principal, Vernā Myers Consulting Group L.L.C., Newton, Mass.; Irma Norris, Production Executive, Harpo Productions, Inc. Chicago, Illinois; Valerie Oliver-Durrah, President/CEO, Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic, Brooklyn, NY; N. Joyce Payne Ph.D., Founder, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, New York, NY; Cheryl Pegus M.D., Chief Medical Officer, SymCare Personalized Health Solutions, West Chester, Pa.; Karen Rafferty, Product Marketing Director, Chevrolet Midsize and Sports Cars, General Motors Corp., Detroit.

The Network Journal has been recognized by government agencies, premier media outlets and business and professional organizations. TNJ has received the "Outstanding Commitment and Positive Contribution to the MBE Community" from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and has been featured on CNN and FOX Television networks.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, people are hurting right now, in Atlanta and across the country. It is in times like this that we need to help our neighbor. Volunteerism in these tough times is critical; that is why I want to highlight the work Emory University, in my district, is doing. Emory University has a strong history of reaching out to the community and engaging in projects to help people in need. Emory students completed nearly 150,000 hours of service in 2008, partnering with more than 200 community partners on projects related to poverty, homelessness, medical services and environmental conservation. The University's dedication to service reflects the desire in many of our students across the nation to get involved in and give back to their communities. America's young people have always been an integral part of the success of our country, and I am especially proud of Emory University's dedication to service.

Each year, the Corporation for National and Community Service recognizes institutions of higher education for exemplary efforts to engage students in service learning, community